



## **Big Island Amateur Radio Club Newsletter – April 2009**

### **President's Message April 2009**

Spring is here.....hope this cool weather is about over. Guess we shouldn't complain after the winter the mainland has had, but getting into the 50's is pretty cool for here. According to my husband Dick AH7G anything under 70 is considered freezing.

The month of March has been very busy for us as we had been going to the hospital to see Eddie Miller W7GMH almost every day and since his death have been trying to give Ann a helping hand. Kelly McGrew AH6NJ and W7NVQ and his wife Tanya have moved back from Idaho, just moving into their home on 6<sup>th</sup> St. in HPP, have been helping out too. The funeral service was well attended by the BIARC members and I know that Ann appreciated seeing you all. She was very happy to finally meet Ned Conklin KH7JJ from the USS Missouri who flew over for the service. Eddie loved his Lord, his wife, his country and ham radio and will be missed by all of us.

Our March meeting was very well attended. Having two speakers again with an abbreviated business meeting went well. Jim Kennedy and Sidney Sellers did a good job as usual. There will be directions for our April's meeting as we will not be able to meet in the Community Hall in April as it has been rented out for the day.

I'm very happy to report that Peter Yoes KH7HI has agreed to take on the job as "leader" of our Field Day weekend in June. Hope that you will consider offering to help him make the weekend a success. I believe we are going to try to have it at the Wailoa Center again this year, but that will be decided by the Field Day committees.

Our Friday lunches have been held at the new Hukalani Steakhouse in the Keaau Shopping Center for the last four weeks. Everyone has been quite pleased with the restaurant so far. If anyone can suggest a better place please let us know.

Gloria Whiteley remains in the Life Care Center on Kawaiilani St. in Room 325. If you get a chance to stop and see her, I would recommend that you try a Tuesday, Thursday or weekends as the other days she is scheduled for her leg treatment and they can be bad days for her.

Club member Mel Kernahan and her husband Galal from California have been on the island for a vacation for the past couple weeks and spent a week with us during a very rainy time. We are always glad to have visitors.

Had a call from Sandra Collins, Ray Hicks (WH6CME) daughter from Idaho. She told us that Ray is going down hill rapidly. I spoke to Ray in January when he celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. At that time he was quite weak and had had a feeding tube inserted into his stomach.

73 and have a Happy Easter everyone, Barbara NH7FY and Dick AH7G



# Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938  
Hilo, HI 96721

## Officers

President	Barbara Darling NH7FY	982-9126
Vice President	Paul Ducasse WH7BR	
Treasurer	Curt Knight AH6RE	966-8304
Secretary	Arman Wiggins WH6BVZ	963-6846

## Two Year Directors

Beau Mills NH7WV	968-1271
Richard Fetchen KH6WE	982-7426
Kile Golden WH7FB	
Elizabeth Yoes WH7CU	
Chuck Epperson AH6SC	

## One Year Directors

Richard Darling AH7G	982-9126
Fred Benardella KH6FI	968-1331
Rick Frazier AH7H	985-9169
Gregg Datlof WH7FC	982-9838
Peter Yoes WH7CB	965-5429

## Standing Committees

Service/Awards co-chair	Harry Nishiyama	KH6FKG
Education	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Emergency Coord.	Harvey Motomura	AH6JA
Equipment	Harry Nishiyama	KH6FKG
Health&Welfare	Fred Benardella	KH6FI
Hospitality	Gloria Whiteley	
Newsletter	Kile Golden	WH7FB
Programs	Curt Knight	AH6RE
Repeater	Arman Wiggins	WH6BVZ
Webmaster	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
	Curt Knight	AH6RE

## Special Committees

Christmas Party Improvement co-chair	Committee	
Field Day	Harry Nishiyama	KH6FKG
Hamfest co-chair	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
	Paul Ducasse	WH7BR
	Bob Schneider	AH6J
	John Buck	
	KH7T	
QSL Bureau	Barbara Darling	NH7FY

## Meetings and Get-Togethers

**Membership meetings** – Second Saturday of each month at 2PM at the Kea'au Community Center

**Board Meetings** – will be held every other month 1 hour prior to the general membership meeting at the same location as the general meeting (January, March, May, July, September, November).

**Friday Lunches** – Check the opening page of the web site for the latest location information.

## East Hawai'i Net

The East Hawai'i Net meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 8AM HST on 146.76 MHz.

## BIWARN accessible Repeaters

Repeaters in bold font are BIWARN/MCDA linked. When operating over a link, remember to leave extra time each transmission for the link to be established. Number in parentheses is the tone access frequency.

<b>145.29-</b>	HOVE-Ka'u WH6FC (100)
146.66-	HOVE (100)
146.68-	Kea'au limited area KH6EJ
<b>146.76-</b>	Kulani KH6EJ
<b>146.82-</b>	Mauna Loa ARES KH6EJ
146.88-	Pepeekeo KH6EJ (may be linked)
<b>146.92-</b>	Ka'u PD KH6EJ
<b>146.94-</b>	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
147.02+	Haleakala Maui RACES AH6JA
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES AH6JA
<b>147.16+</b>	Kona (Hualalai) WH6DEW
<b>147.32+</b>	Hilo Hospital NH7HI (100)
<b>147.38+</b>	Waimea East KH7T experimental
<b>442.35+</b>	Kaanapali Maui (136.5)
<b>442.5+</b>	Kea'au KH6EJ
443.65+	Ocean View Hub
<b>444.225+</b>	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
<b>444.45+</b>	Parker Ranch KH6EJ (88.5)



Jim Kennedy K6MIO at the March meeting

**Big Island Amateur Radio Club  
General Membership Meeting  
March 14, 2009**

General meeting was called to order by Barbara Darling NH7FY at 2:05 pm

Introductions were made.

Bob Schneider AH6J announced that the April meeting would be held at the Kawanakoa Gym at 156 Baker Ave. in Keaukaha, and that we would be advised to park in the small parking lot since there would be an event in the gym. BIARC is tasked with helping the Hawaii County Civil Defense by providing a station.

Barbara Darling announced that Frank Trusdell may be the speaker at the April meeting. He will be talking about the eruption of Mauna Loa 25 years ago. Paul Ducasse WH7BR is working on confirming that.

Gloria Whiteley is in Life Care and is having trouble with her legs. She would be glad to have visitors.

Eddie Miller's W7GMH funeral will be on Tuesday at noon at the Veterans Cemetery II. There will only be a graveside service.

A Public Address system was donated to the club by Lloyd KH6LC Cabral's lady friend Jeana.

Barbara Darling NH7FY praised Curt Knight's AH6RE work on the BIARC web site. Looks great!

Curt Knight AH6RE gave the treasurers report:

Year To Date:

Income:

Donations

Refreshments	23.83
Repeater	220.00
Total Donations	243.83

Membership Dues

Associate	30.00	(3 members)
Family	90.00	(9 members)
General Membership	1,060.00	(53 members)
Student	10.00	(1 member)
Total Membership Dues	1,190.00	(66 members)

Total Income 1,433.83

Expense

Equipment Insurance	72.00
Postage and Delivery	42.00
Printing and Reproduction	26.41
Repeater Maintenance	520.00

Refreshments	77.17
Total Expense	737.58

Net Income 696.25

TOTAL ASSETS

2,872.39

John Buck KH7T asked what of the club's equipment is being insured. Curt replied that only one repeater system is insured.

Bob Schneider AH6J gave a repeater report. South Point repeater is ready to be installed once all the permissions are obtained. Na'alehu link is down temporarily.

Curt asked for newsletter contributions before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Barbara reports 1224 QSL cards received for the month of February. 6,075 total cards handled.

A Field Day chairman is needed. Peter Yoes KH7HI volunteered to head up Field Day which takes place on the last full weekend of June.

Hamfest is still on for September in Waimea exact date is uncertain. Bob AH6J suggested that by going back to the October date we could have Bob Vallio W6RGG who is head of ARRL Pacific Division attend. Bob will report back on this possibility.

Bob AH6J explained to the membership who the frequency coordinator is and what he does.

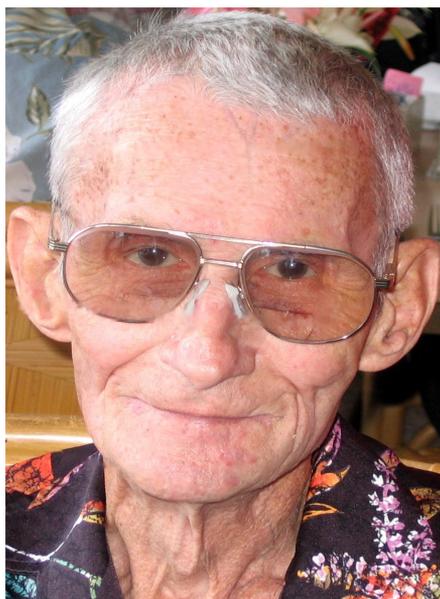
Bob Schneider AH6J moved to reaffirm Rick Ching KH7O as the frequency coordinator. Ted Brattstrom NH6YK seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert Oliver NH6AH asked for Hilo area operators to operate the Hilo Hospital station. Also the Health Net, which meets 9am on the first Saturday of the month needs more participants. John Buck KH7T said that there will be some coordination with Homeland Security so that operators will be given a credential that will allow access to the facilities in the event of an emergency.

Speakers were Sidney Sellers NH7OD and Dr. Jim Kennedy K6MIO. Business meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Submitted by Arman Wiggins WH6AW





**Eddie Miller W7GMH (1920 – 2009)**

Edwin James Miller W7GMH died March 4 at the Hilo Medical Center. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, and was chief radioman on the USS Missouri during the second world war, and a radio and TV repairman afterward. He was a long time member of BIARC, the ARRL, and QCWA. Eddie was very proud that he had the same call sign since he was 17 years old.

**THE BIG ISLAND**

**W7GMH**  
 Same Call Letters Since August 31, 1937

HTX-100 25 WATTS  
 Edwin James Miller  
 SR 10016  
 Keaau, Hawaii 96749  
 H.B. 2 ELEMENT CUBICAL QUAD

**Pse** QSL Tnx Hawaii County

STATION	DATE	UTC	MHz	R S T	MODE
HL2KCS	17 JULY 1992	0408	28.495.3	5-9	SSB

10X62522 SHELL-K66KW

BIARC thanks Peter Sur and the Hawaii Tribune-Herald for permission to reprint the following article, which first appeared in the September 7, 2005 edition.

**A Naval Life**  
**Veteran Remembers the Mighty Mo, Service**  
by Peter Sur, Tribune-Herald Staff Writer

Last weekend, during the 60th anniversary of V-J Day, Eddie Miller visited his old workplace at the top of the USS Missouri. He's 85 years old, but he still has enough energy to climb up 14 stories of the mothballed battleship to where he served in the summer of 1945. In an interview Tuesday, the Hawaiian Paradise Park resident discussed growing up during the Great Depression, his numerous brushes with death in World War II and an atomic bomb that may be hidden in the Pacific. At Friday's ceremony aboard the Missouri attended by 400 World War II veterans, Miller was one of three present to have served on the battleship. "None of us are heroes. The ones who gave their lives are heroes," Miller said, while wearing a USS Missouri T-shirt, cap and pin. "I'm just a radioman."

Miller grew up in Portland, Ore. Upon enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1940, he was immediately put to work in Los Angeles teaching Morse code radio communications. "Two hundred graduates, all 200 words a minute," Miller said. "That was pretty good speed for four months." Miller himself was among the fastest communicators in the Navy and could tap out 10 to 12 dots and dashes per second. In 1940 he briefly held the world record of 63 words a minute. "Adm. (William) Halsey told me it sounded like a buzz," he said.

War between the United States and Japan broke out after the Dec. 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, and by the end of that month Miller was deployed as part of a 16-man expeditionary force — a forerunner to the Navy SEALs — to the desolate Aleutian island of Kanaga. There, 1,000 miles from the nearest Naval base, he was stationed initially to check the weather for the Doolittle raid on Tokyo. While in the Alaskan archipelago, Miller

participated in the forgotten Aleutian War, a two-year episode in which Japan invaded and captured a part of Alaska. Miller remained on Kanaga for six months. One night, while stationed in the area, he was so close he heard Japanese music from nearby enemy forces. Miller's expeditionary force — which was reduced to five sailors — was finally rescued by a PBY seaplane.

"I lost all my teeth. They became sponges. They had to take them all out," he said. After recovering in Oregon, "I put in six weeks' training and I became a full-fledged commando." He went back to sea. Miller was on Guam when President Franklin D. Roosevelt died. "That just hit. That hurt. That hurt bad," he said. During the Depression, Miller had worked for the New Deal's Civilian Conservation Corps. "I worked on dams, built bridges, fought forest fires," he said.

Miller was stationed on the Missouri from July to August 1945. He sat in a room above the bridge, which gave a sweeping view of the ocean, and handled urgent communications. It was also unprotected. "I felt I was a mighty good target up there, a sitting duck," he said. "When the bomb was dropped over Hiroshima, the Missouri lowered the guns, which meant we were no longer in conflict," he said. The second bomb dropped, and prior to the signing of the instrument of surrender on Sept. 2, 1945, he was sent to Guam. The chief petty officer remained on Guam for two months after the war, where he led 200 radio operators and 4,000 ships until being honorably discharged in November. By the time he got home, the celebrations had ended, and he joked about having to wait 60 years to enjoy the victory.

In the 1950s, Miller worked on radio equipment used in at least one hydrogen bomb test. As a civilian, he fixed television sets for 35 years, and he had his own television business for seven years. Today, Miller is a member of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club. He's kept his same radio call sign for 68 years and six days as of Tuesday, and he has taken photographs as a hobby for 75 years. The room where he sent radio communications from the Missouri was stripped of telegraph equipment when the battleship prepared for the Gulf War, but the ship is being restored to its 1945 condition. Miller can easily recall the day he moved with his wife to the Big Island (April 5, 1988), and aside from some hearing loss received in the war, he's in excellent shape. He wants to come

back for the 70th anniversary of V-J Day, in 2015. "I'm still here. I love it," he said, while flapping his elbows. "I can stand and jump and walk."

While serving on the Missouri, Miller, who worked next to the encryption room, learned "three Buck Rogers bombs were shipped. Two arrived," he said using the name for the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He believes that "one of them is on the bottom of the ocean."

"I had fun. I enjoy life. I'm not mad at anybody," he said. "I love the Navy. Oh I tell you, I would do it again for my country," Miller said. He said he would do anything for his country, except commit murder. "I wouldn't want to shoot anybody. I'm a radio operator." Peter Sur can be reached at [psur@hawaiitribune-herald.com](mailto:psur@hawaiitribune-herald.com).



## 10-10 International Net

The 10-10 international net has been promoting the use of the 10 meter band since 1962. The net control for the local (Aloha) chapter of the 10-10 international net is Irene NH7PE. The local net meets Monday night at 6:30PM local time (Tuesday 0430Z) on 28.487. There is a national net based on the mainland that runs at 1800Z on both 28.380 and 28.800 daily except for Sunday. You may also be able to hear the Alii chapter net on Kaua'i on 28.530 Saturdays at noon local time, and the Auckland, NZ net on 28.530 at 12:30PM local time on Friday. All are welcome to join in.

10-10 sponsors several on the air events each year. Check their web page [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org) for more information

(Thanks Irene NH7PE)





Sidney NH7OD at the March meeting



Eddie Miller W7GMH

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